

41B
Dear Paul,

8/21/78

While I write for other purposes I do not want to forget that in tomorrow's mail, 4t class because of the weight, there will be a package of the copies I've made for you from DL 100-10461. There are fewer records of subject interest in this file but a fair number I have not copied for you because their value for me is in FOIA appeals, not from their subject content. I will have a separate appeals file, which I think will not interest you, as well as the original records as provided, preserved as provided, plus a separate set of the worksheets, of which I'll be giving "in a set the end of this week.

The HSCA hearings held no surprises for me save for the Eist b.s. This typifies the concern about which I take time now before returning to other work.

You will without doubt recall that I alone opposed these committee nuts from the first and predicted what our nuts would do in April 1975. You should also recall that, skipping to the recent past, in early May I wrote and said we should organize to be able to offset the disinformation certain to be presented and aired. I believe I told you that I had already discussed this with Bud, in Jim's office and presence, and received no meaningful response, even reaction. I had discussed it earlier that day with Jeff Goldberg and Bob Katz.

Both were here for a pleasant afternoon and evening not so long ago and I mentioned it to them again. Both impressed me on a personal level as good people, an impression I had not had about any AIB people from their consistent record.

So we went into the hearings with nobody prepared to do anything, except that I did notice that Jeff Cohen has suddenly bloomed, with the non-profit org. AIB, into King/Ray assassination subject experts on coast-to-coast public TV.

I had, specifically, offered the advance opinion that if there was going to be an effort to offset the assassins' propaganda it would be necessary to arrange in advance, I suggested how this could and should be done, and I offered to take the initial steps myself. Nobody appears to have wanted this and I have other things to do.

Lane did not do as well as I'd expected. I'd expected him to have no more subject-matter knowledge than his usual O minus and I knew his alibi witnesses were fakes, as is the one he has in reserve. But I had expected him to have better self-control because I am certain he fears a Ray malpractice action at some point over the committee appearance. In terms of Ray's interest and in terms of Lane's self-interest and the image he projected he did poorly after a decent start in which he failed to perceive the clear signals that his ploy had failed. When he did not blow Stokes and Prayer he should have been more quiet, more careful in his objections and more constructive in them. He blew the Eist thing incredibly. He could have turned it all 100% around by a different, more orthodox approach.

If I had had the Cohen spot on PBS I could have ruined the committee and Eist over Eist, with no benefit to the FBI. Aside from Jim, who should not appear on this because of the tricky legal situation, there is nobody else who could have done this. I will make some of the stuff available today but it will not have the impact of having been aired simultaneous with the assassins' fabrications. If it reaches as large an audience.

I also tell you what I told Goldberg - that I have no personal interest in any attention for attention's sake and do turn down appearances. A year ago June when I was on Good Morning America I refused them thrice in two days but did go when JL urged it, for reasons that then appeared to be those that should control. Now and since then I've been sorry I did not stay in Dallas to continue the work for which I went there. Last week I declined to go to the ABC DC station, WJLA, to provide commentary unless they provided transportation. When they did not, which is, by the way, usual, I did not go. It would have required either a private car or a cab and I could not bear the cost of the cab and had no private car available during the working day, from friends. (So their aired a law prof who appears to have been proposed to them by Lane from his commentary.)

Goldberg's explanation yesterday about why they went ahead with Cohen is childish.

It is that they had only one day's notice and that they had been recommended by a reporter who liked to air stuff. (Which says something about the reporter.) My own view is that it is the same self-seeking, self-promoting AIB, with pale print over the same stripes. Before this committee is dead we have a good chance of seeing the consequences of their utterly irresponsible career of wild conjectures and irresponsible charges, as we did with Lane and as we shall see even more about him and Ray.

If the AIB people don't know that I alone have done what I have done on the King case and if they are unable to resist the appeal of personal attention when they really are not qualified to provide expertise I think there can be no cooperation with them or anything they are associated with.

Goldberg asked me if they could prepay my name for the JFK hearings. As though there also will be no more King hearings. In the end I said that while I might not want to do it at that time they could.

I will be thinking about this more and I will be discussing it with Jim and Howard, who has moved to Arlington, but my present disposition is to have nothing to do with any so-called cooperative effort because there never is cooperation with these kinds of people and with them in particular.

If anyone asks me independently I might do it. My present disposition is to remain detached, as I have been, and not to get involved in any appearance with those with whom there might be a dispute. I have no desire to air disputes and less desire to remain silent where I may disagree.

I know of some arrangements, as those involving you. I have no objections to them. But I do think that making no mention of this to me is not easily explained. Whatever explains it and whatever it does or does not mean I shall take it at face value and remain aloof from it and from whatever arrangements there may be. Consistent with this I will want no use made on any of my work. I can't prevent use of what is published but I can ask that what is not published not be used. I'm not going to be in any such arrangements vicariously, second-hand or any other way. If there are, as I see no reason for there to be, objections to this then I think the objects should be addressed to those who have gone so far out of their way to put me in the position in which I am, despite my early efforts to prevent this and create a better, more constructive situation for the hearings and any responses.

If whatever is done goes well, that is fine. If there is more fucking up, I'll not be part of it.

For most of those involved the attitude reflect is sick, and for some sick with unrequited ego. For most it is a record of consistent failures, consistently counter-productive efforts and irrational substitution ~~fantasy~~ of longing for reality with regard to the committee and its career.

If there is fucking up again at least I'll be clean, not part of it, and may be able to pick up some of the pieces.

As by now you probably know from checking, I'm making some efforts to have some work made that may enable me to get a helper. To be able to look for one I have to be pay one.

As in the past I'm sorry about the situation. If I cared personally I'd be resentful at what it reflects, but I have no personal interest. My personal interest lies in finding time to write and anything that delays that is against personal interest.

In today's mail I have a Memphis clip. It is severely critical of PBS, Duke, McMillan and others without even mentioning Cohen.

I've not paid close attention to the Dallas firing tests but from what I've heard on radio it appears to be no more than another putdown effort, an invalid test from which the committee will represent that the conclusions are valid. Like the pistol from an undisclosed point on the knoll, no doubt another nutty theory on which the assassins have fixed. Even Ruby's caliber rather than the /45 of the Garrison sewer drak.

Hastily,